

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SY-05

MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /097 W

-----021139Z 092348 /17

O R 021059Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0049

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: RELATIVELY CALM MAY 1 LABOR DAY IN SPAIN

REF: MADRID 3325

1. DESPITE THE LAST MINUTE GOVT BAN ON LABOR DAY DEMONSTRATIONS AS SUCH (REFTEL), MAY 1 WAS RELATIVELY CALM THROUGHOUT THE NATION AND NO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS DEEMED NECESSARY FROM THE SIDE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. IN MOST PROVINCES, THE OCCASION WAS MARKED PEACEFULLY, OFTEN THROUGH PICNIC

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TYPE GATHERINGS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. THERE WERE SOME DISTURBANCES IN THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL CENTERS. IN BARCELONA, DEMONSTRATORS PARADED DOWN THE CENTRALLY LOCATED RAMBLAS AND THERE WAS SOME POLICE ACTIVITY. SCATTERED MEETINGS IN VALENCIA WERE BROKEN UP BY SECURITY FORCES WITH RELATIVELY FEW PROBLEMS. IN THE BASQUE CAPITAL OF BILBAO, ONLY 3000 BY GOVT COUNT DEMONSTRATED, AND SOME CAR

BARRICADES WERE PUT UP. IN VALLADOLID, A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL WAS THROWN AT A POLICE CAR, BUT THERE WERE NO INJURIES. IN PAMPLONA, 5000 GATHERED PEACEFULLY AT A MEETING AUTHORIZED BY THE CIVIL GOVERNOR.

2. IN MADRID, AN ESTIMATED 7000 WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC) AND USO MILITANTS GATHERED DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON IN THE CASA DE CAMPO PARK, AND WERE ADDRESSED BY SWC LEADERS CAMACHO, ARIZA AND SARTORIUS. THE MEETING BROKE UP PEACEFULLY AFTER A FEW HOURS. OTHER STREET DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CITY ITSELF PROVOKED CLASHES, AS UGT AND CNT ELEMENTS ATTEMPTING TO RALLY WERE BROKEN UP BY SECURITY FORCES. SMOKE BOMBS AND RUBBER BULLETS WERE UTILIZED, AND THE RESULT WAS TWENTY INJURED, ONE APPARENTLY SERIOUSLY, AND AT LEAST 50 ARRESTS. A GOOD MANY OF THE STREET DEMONSTRATORS WERE RADICAL STUDENTS, LINKED NEITHER TO THE SOCIALISTS NOR THE COMMUNISTS, LEFT OF THE PCE. SEVERAL JOURNALISTS WERE MANHANDLED, INCLUDING SOME FOREIGN PRESSMEN. SOME MOLOTOV COCKTAILS WERE THROWN, AND SHOTS WERE FIRED AT POLICE FROM A SPEEDING MERCEDES SEDAN. PSOE LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ PARTICIPATED IN AN INCIDENT FREE UGT WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT A MADRID CEMETARY, A COMMEMORATION THAT OBVIOUSLY HAS THE AUTHORITIES TACIT BLESSING.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SWC, UGT, AND USO HAD MET ONCE AGAIN WITH THE MADRID CIVIL GOVERNOR ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30, IN A FINAL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO HOLD MEETINGS. THE GOVERNOR REMAINED FIRM ON HIS BAN OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETINGS IN THE CITY, BUT IMPLIED THAT PEACEFUL "COUNTRY-SIDE GATHERINGS" IN THE CASA DEL CAMPO WOULD BE PERMITTED. THE UNIONS SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR PLANNED RALLIES, ALTHOUGH URGING THEIR FOLLOWERS TO REMAIN PEACEFUL. A JOINT UNION COMMUNIQUE APRIL 30 PROTESTED AGAINST THE "ABSURDITY OF PROHIBITING THE CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY A FEW DAYS AFTER HAVING GRANTED UNION LEGALIZATION AND IN FACE OF AN OBVIOUS UNION WILLINGNESS TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH THE AUTHORITIES."

4. DESPITE REPORTED ACTIVITY BY BOTH LEFT AND RIGHTWING EXTREMIST GROUPS AND HEAVY CONCENTRATIONS OF SECURITY FORCES IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, THERE WERE ONLY A FEW HOURS OF DISTURBANCES IN THE LARGER INDUSTRIAL CITIES. MOST PROVINCIAL CIVIL GOVERNORS TOOK A TOLERANT POSITION WITH RESPECT TO PEACEFUL MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS. EATON

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Message Attributes

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